

REMARKS

Claims 7, 9, 10, 12, and 15-20 are pending in this application. Claims 7, 9, 10, 12, and 15 stand rejected and claims 16-20 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 7, 9, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 20 have been amended. The amendments to the claims have been made to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 7, 9, 10, 12, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,627,392 ("Pforr") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0136340 ("Baselmans"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Among the limitations of independent claim 7 not present in the cited references is a quadrupole illumination source with the poles of the quadrupole illuminations placed on x-axis and the y-axis.

Applicants note that neither Baselmans nor Pforr disclose the quadruple illumination sources. In Baselmans, a radiation system Ex, IL is disclosed for providing a projection beam of radiation. However, there is no disclosure that the radiation system is a quadruple radiation system. In fact, the radiation system is discussed as being an excimer laser operated at a single wavelength or a laser-fired plasma source. Further, Pforr is silent with respect to an illumination source. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Pforr and Baselmans fails to disclose all of the explicitly recited limitations of claim 7. Thus, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and independent claim 7 must be allowed.

Claims 9, 10, 12, and 15 depend from, and contain all the limitations of claim 7. These dependent claims also recite additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of claim 7, are neither disclosed nor suggested by Pforr and Baselmans

and are also believed to be directed towards the patentable subject matter. Thus, claims 9, 10, 12, and 15 should also be allowed.

Claim 16 also recites the quadrupole illumination source of claim 1 and is allowable for at least the same reasons. Thus rejoinder applies and claim 16 with its dependent claims should be considered and allowed. See, M.P.E.P. § 821.04(b).

Based on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Applicants have responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

/Ian R. Blum/

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